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Department of Agriculture

KRAFT'S CLERODENDRON
See Page Following

The Cypress Knee Nursery

City Office
1124 Lafayette St., New Orleans, La.

Nursery
2030 Farragut St., Algiers, La.



Cypress Knee, the country home and office of Dr. C. V. Kraft of the Cypress Knee Nursery (Algiers) New Orleans, La., where extensive study is being made of the Louisiana Wild Native Plant Life.

CLERODENDRON

This beautiful four inch (Kraft) Clerodendron pot plant was just a year old when it made its second crop of blooms as shown on cover. A rooted cutting in May, it bloomed first in a 2½ inch pot in September, after which it was shifted to a 4 inch pot. It started its second bloom on May 12 and held its beautiful blossoms until the last of September, blooming continuously for more than 140 days, when it was again cut back for another crop of blooms.

When transplanted to five and six inch pots their display of blooms is gorgeous and spectacular. After many years of study and propagation of this clerodendron we feel we have produced a plant for retail sale that is quickly attractive, blooms profusely over a long period and gives the greatest satisfaction to the customer who purchased it for gifts.

Their long period of bloom is of great sales value for the fact that under hot house conditions they may be made to bloom at your will. They are very hardy, have few enemies, stand drouth and respond quickly to your requirements.

This Clerodendron has a great tendency to vine, and we have succeeded to a great extent to break it of this habit by seed selection. Cutting back long twining shoots encourages new growth, on which these very large snowy white flowers, rose magenta tipped clusters, bloom profusely. The calyx is pure white or sometimes green tinged.

Hot House Growing

For hot house growing they may be grown from cuttings of the half ripened wood. Use two inch

pots filled with a mixture of equal parts of leaf mold or peat, add good sharp sand. Place a cutting in each pot, and press moderately firm. Leave the pots in a tight case with a temperature of 70 degrees, and keep the soil at all times fairly moist. When the pots are filled with roots, shift into four inch pots, using a compost consisting of fibrous loam two parts, leaf mold and sand one part each and a fifth part of well rotted manure. Pot rather firmly as this insures a stronger growth, and during the growing season keep in a night temperature of 65 degrees. Clerodendrons may be flowered in any size pot desired and can be had in flower from Easter until late September. This Clerodendron is probably the best and most useful, either for decorative work or exhibition purposes when it is grown in large pots; a good rough material may be used for potting. A good stiff fibrous loam with about 1/3 part of decayed manure is best. When the season's growth is completed, gradually withhold water for two months and lower the night temperature from 65 to 55 degrees. Many of the leaves under the above treatment will drop and the wood will become firm. If plants are wanted in flower about Easter, give them a thorough soaking with water about January 1 and raise the temperature again to 65 degrees by night, letting it rise during the day to 75 to 80 degrees.

Sprinkle the plants two or three times a day, thus encouraging the young growths to start all over the ripened wood. When this takes place, the plant will either have to be repotted or fed liberally with liquid manure and fertilizer, repotting usually re-



Our tallest-stemmed iris—*Iris giganteaerulea*, growing in a swamp in southern Louisiana. In this swamp violet-flowered irises prevailed. The plants were mostly three to five feet tall. The plants in the colony shown above were fully seven feet tall. If some of the drooping leaves were straightened up they would overtop one's head.—Reproduced from Journal of New York Botanical Garden by permission of Dr. John K. Small.

sulting in larger pinnacles of flowers. If feeding is resorted to, a handful of green cow-manure to a watering pot containing two and a half or three gallons of water is sufficient; and if any of the popular fertilizers are used, a small handful to the same amount of water will answer. Water twice in between with clean water. Plants for a succession may be started when the first are beginning to show the crimson at the end of the flower and so on until the end of July or first of August.

In our nursery they are grown out doors, the pots being plunged. They bloom from early May until near winter. They will stand a temperature of 30 degrees. They are given winter protection. Many will lose their leaves. Plants growing in the ground may be killed back by heavy freezes but will come back from the roots more vigorous in the spring. They do well in full sun as well as in shade.

Prices—Clerodendron:

2½ inch pots \$20.00 per hundred

2½ inch pots 12.00 for fifty

2½ inch pots 4.00 per dozen

4 inch pots 10.00 per dozen

shipped in paper pots, no charge for packing.

The Louisiana Wild Native Iris

(See color plate)

The extensive study of large natural fields of iris in Southern Louisiana—but more especially in the vicinity of Algiers and New Orleans, by Dr. Charles Victor Kraft, and the consequent awakening and heightening of interest throughout the United States, opens to the CYPRESS KNEE NURSERY unparalleled scope for service in propagating, distribut-



A clump of white flowered Iris (*Iris Elephantina*) in a colony where it was discovered in 1926. The locality was a swamp about fifteen miles East of New Orleans. The colony was totally destroyed within two years after it was discovered.—Reproduced from Journal of New York Botanical Garden by permission of Dr. John K. Small.





The Louisiana Native Wild Iris

ing and perpetuating this lovely species of unsurpassed beauty.

The further discovery that the Louisiana wild native iris lends itself readily to transplanting makes possible the cultivation of fields of these plants throughout the country. Dr. John K. Small, Ph. D., Sc. D. of the New York Botanical Garden, said "Once established, these plantations would care for themselves in an environment which their ancestors occupied before man came on the scene and destroyed what nature planted and developed through the ages." Our experience, resulting from letters received from those to whom we have made shipments, demonstrates that these plants will thrive in any state in our Union.

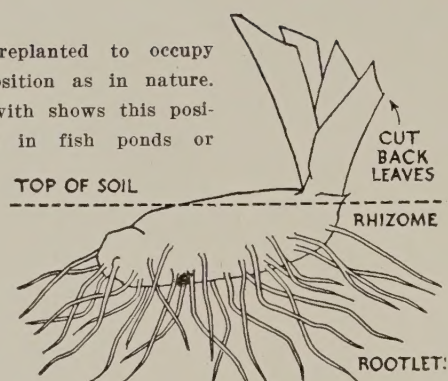
The Range of Color of the Louisiana Wild Iris

The Louisiana Wild Iris reaches its maximum development in places where a damp acid soil is available or frequent watering is practicable before and during the blooming period. Specimens of the mammoth iris, some of them more than seven feet tall, grow in southern Louisiana in more than two hundred hues of lavender, violet, lilac, henna, orange, and old rose, and all shades approaching red and blue,

These uncultivated flowers grow in a profusion and with a rare beauty unmatched by dwarf types of yellow and purple iris common in northern climates. Local flower lovers have for years gathered these lovely plants for their own gardens, but only recently have they been accorded intense botanical study and commercial development.

Mr. Alexander, co-student with Dr. John K. Small, of these Louisiana irises, records that it is interesting

Irises should be replanted to occupy the same relative position as in nature. The illustration herewith shows this position. When growing in fish ponds or aquariums under water, the top of the rhizome also should be just out of the soil.



that the great range of color mentioned is more apparent than real. Among the many shades represented, none goes into true red and none into true blue. The nearest approaches to red in the numerous iris fulva variations always have a cast of orange; the nearest approaches to blue always have a cast of violet or purple; and the "red" and the "pinks" in the group Roseanthae are really not red or pink at all, but various shades of lilac, red-lilac, red-purple, red-violet, pink-lilac, and rosy-lilac. All of these, with one or two exceptions, are represented within a certain few pages of the color dictionary when laid out for actual color-matching.

The iris beds lie in isolated and scattered spots about the bayou headlands near New Orleans and Algiers. Several thousand specimens of the mammoth irises have been taken to the New York Botanical Garden, as well as to our plant, where thorough



One of the blocks of wild irises lined out in our nursery. From these stands, colors will be separated and seeds collected.



In these dense swamps our collectors must often use a compass to find their way back to the road. Alligators, rattlesnakes and water moccasins add to the hazard of the collectors.

studies are being made for purposes of hybridization and propagation. Much to the surprise of the botanists, the transplanted specimens have suffered no serious ill effects from the climatic change. There are small plantations of Louisiana transplanted irises thriving in Maryland, New Jersey and New York. Still smaller plantations are located in private reservations in other states, especially in California.

In view of these facts, the Lower Mississippi Delta natural iris field constitutes the most spectacular botanical and horticultural discovery in North America from the standpoint of a single genus within such a limited area. Aside from its magnitude, the outstanding points are the colonies of species, the great range and combination of colors, and the unusual size of the plants. Flowering stalks six feet tall are not unusual. Stalks seven feet high have been found. In such cases a six-foot man has to look up in order to see the flowers.

Natural Beds Being Destroyed

The Louisiana wild irises are fast disappearing, due, first, to the large number of collectors of these rare plants, second, to the growth of the city, where low places are being filled to make new streets, and third, to the wholesale destruction taking place as the result of the building of new roads and the digging of canals, and the dredging in the construction of the many levees so necessary in this section. It is a regrettable coincident that the many improvements above referred to should strike at the very heart of these wonderful natural iris beds.

Saving the Irises for Posterity

It has been suggested to us by many botanists and floriculturists that some one in the immediate vicinity of New Orleans should devote his time and grounds to saving as many of the different varieties as possible. We have accepted this suggestion and

are now engaged in the gathering, selection, propagation, and sale of these wonderful plants and their seeds. In this connection, may we not mention some of the hardships endured by our collectors? Our best collectors average about two hundred roots a day. They are often required to find their way out of the swamps with the aid of a compass. Rubber hip boots are inadequate to keep their legs dry. They must resort to the use of a large cane knife to cut the undergrowth and the entanglement of vines with the Palmetto palms, and to keep a watchful eye for an occasional alligator, rattlesnake, or water moccasin. Automobiles, boats, skiffs, and pirogues are the conveyances necessary for these collections.

The Louisiana wild iris is not only found in the swamp, marshes and low lands, but also in elevated places. Their desperate fight for existence is best illustrated by the fact that they will work their heads through the edge of a gravel road which has been constructed over some of the natural beds.

It goes without saying that these lovely irises should be planted in moist places to reach their maximum growth and beauty, but if such places are not available, they should be given plenty of water, especially in early spring during their flowering season, which extends over a period of from sixty to ninety days. We have found many colonies growing and blooming high and dry on top of high levees where the roots had been thrown up by dredges. They are persistent in their existence and when you have planted a bed of these lovely flowers they will take care of themselves from year to year, to furnish quantities of cut flowers, for an extensive field in which cut flowers are used.

Where to Plant Louisiana Wild Irises

The Louisiana wild irises make their best showing when planted en masse or in groups in large beds. In estates, parks, and public grounds, several hun-

dred should be planted in a bed along the edge of ponds or pools or in the water where they will thrive. Drainage ditches become a thing of beauty when planted with wild irises. In the smaller gardens they make a splendid showing along the walks, fences or lily ponds. There is also a striking contrast when planted with the ordinary commercial irises. We find from experience that the Louisiana wild irises do well when planted under large shade trees furnishing delightful blooms during the first few months of Spring.

Notice to Northern States

In the North, these plants must be grown in ordinary dry, but very rich soil. Thus planted they will stand the winter up to Southern Canada. If the roots and root stocks are in wet ground during the winter, they will likely not prove hardy so far north.

Prices—Louisiana Wild Native Iris:

100 roots (rhizomes)—Mixed Colors..\$ 5.00

500 roots (rhizomes)—Mixed Colors.. 23.00

1000 roots (rhizomes)—Mixed Colors.. 45.00

Add 50 per cent for orders of all red or all purple, no increases on all blue.

FICUS REPENS

Ficus Repens—climbing or creeping fig—heart shaped leaves, dark green, like English ivy, about ½ inch long. Makes a dense mat of flat foliage for covering conservatory walls, many of our college buildings here in New Orleans are blanketed with this beautiful evergreen as perfectly flat as if cut by a lawn mower. Also much used for hanging baskets.

2½ in. pots only, per hundred, \$6.00

AZALEAS

Pink Elegance and Purple Formosa Indica.

Rooted cuttings, per hundred, \$5.00.

4 to 6 inch spread, each, 15c.

8 to 12 inch spread, each, 35c.

12 to 18 inch spread, each, 75c.

Balled and burlapped.

PODOCORPUS

The Fruit Bearing Shrub

There is no more beautiful shrub than our Podocarpus which also bears an edible fruit. This shrub may be trimmed to any height and shape. As a tree it will reach a height of 15 feet. It also makes a beautiful hedge requiring trimming but once a year. The edible berries which are of a dark purple color are delicious. (When the berries are ripe the purplish part is edible, the green being the seed.) Especially adapted as specimen plants in landscaping, they make beautiful pot plants for the home.

Seedlings \$3.00 a hundred.

2½ in. Pots, \$6.00 a hundred.

COCOS AUSTRALIS (Palm)

One of our most graceful palms for lawns or buckets for decorations.

One year seedlings, per hundred, \$8.00.

Seeds, per hundred, \$5.00.

OPHIOPOGON JAPONICUS

(Japanese grass.) Much used for border edging and ground covering in dense shade. Grows about 12 inches, never needs trimming. Leaves very dark green about 1/8 inch wide.

Full grown plants—100, \$1.00; 500, \$4.50; 1000, \$8.00.

ENGLISH IVY (Hedera)

Very dark green leaves, root climbing vines for trees, walls, ground cover in shade and for hanging baskets.

Rooted cuttings, per hundred, \$3.00.

2½ inch pots, 4 to 6 inches, per 100, \$5.00.

2½ inch pots, 2 plants to pot, per hundred, \$7.50

ASPIDISTRAS

Large dark green leaves, very glossy. Stands smoke and dust. Very hardy as indoors and office plants. Stands much abuse.

Roots only, no leaves, per hundred, \$5.00.

Rooted leaves to make up pot plants, 100, \$8.00.

Four inch pots (made up), ten to twelve leaves to pots, per hundred, \$30.00.

HYDRANGEA

Otaksa variety is most popular because of its dwarf habit. Beautiful pot plants can be grown in one year from cuttings. Flowers attain a diameter of 10 to 14 inches.

Rooted cuttings, 4 to 6 in., per hundred, \$6.00.

Rooted top cuttings, 4 to 6 in, per hundred, \$7.50

2½ in, pots, per hundred, \$8.50.

4 in., per dozen, \$3.00.

BAMBOO

NEARING 100 FT. IN HEIGHT

Bamboo-Phyllostachys bambusoides (Giant timber Bamboo) grows to height of 85 feet in rich swamp or bottom lands. Girth of canes sometimes reach 14 inches, about 4½ to 5 inches in diameter. The most spectacular plants in America—much used in China as timber for building houses. Will stand a temperature of zero.

Balled and Burlapped, single clump, each \$1.50.

Bamboo (Dandrocalamus Strictus) makes impenetrable hedge so compact as to be a barrier to small animals. Grows to height of 15 feet. Beautiful green foliage—makes fine specimen plants, 12 inch square clumps. Canes cut back to 6 inches may be divided. Will stand temperature of 26 degrees.

Per clump\$ 1.50

Per dozen clumps 12.00

BOXWOOD

(Japonica)

5 to 8 inches branched, per hundred, \$ 6.00.

8 to 12 inches heavy, per hundred, 15.00.